Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 SAB-02 /070 W

-----013773 110452Z/23

R 091645Z JUN 78 FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8429 AMEMBASSY PANAMA

CONFIDENTIAL BOGOTA 5441

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: PINT, PN, CO, CS, VE SUBJ: POSSIBLE VISIT OF PANAMANIAN LIBERAL PARTY DELEGATION TO COLOMBIA

REF: PANAMA 03999

WE HAVE SEEN NO EVIDENCE THAT A PANAMANIAN LIBERAL PARTY DELEGA-TION HAS MET WITH PRESIDENT LOPEZ OR WITH COLOMBIAN LIBERAL PARTY LEADERS DURING RECENT WEEKS. THE ONLY INDICATION OF THE VISIT TO COLOMBIA OF SUCH A DELEGATION WAS FROM COLOMBIAN ROVING AMBASSADOR FOR CARIBBEAN AFFIARS CARLOS PEREZ NORZAGARAY, WHO HAS ACTED AS A KIND OF SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO PRESIDENT LOPEZ ON PANAMANIAN MATTERS. PEREZ SAID THAT. WHILE ACCOMPANYING PRESI-DENT LOPEZ ON A TRIP TO CARTAGENA DURING THE LAST WEEK OF MAY, HE HAD LEARNED OF THE PRESENCE IN THAT CITY OF A GROUP OF PANAMANIAN LIBERALS. PEREZ' UNDERSTANDING WAS THAT THE PANA-MANIANS WERE HOLDING A MEETING TO DISCUSS THEIR OWN INTERNAL MATTERS AND HE PROFESSED DOUBT THAT THEY HAD SOUGHT MEETINGS WITH ANY COLOMBIAN LEADERS. PEREZ SAID THAT HIS KNOWLEDGE OF THE GROUP WAS BASED ON A CASUAL ENCOUNTER WITH A PANAMANIAN MILITARY ATTACHE WHO PEREZ BELIEVED WAS KEEPING AN EYE ON THEM. COMMENT: WE HAVE NO PARTICULAR REASON TO DOUBT PEREZ' WORD ON THIS. HOWEVER, IT MAY BE NOTEWORTHY THAT THE PANAMANIANA CONFIDENTIAL

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AND LOPEZ "HAPPENED" TO COINCIDE IN CARTAGENA, WHERE IT WOULD BE EASIER TO ARRANGE A DISCREET MEETING THAN IN BOGOTA. DREXLER

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Message Attributes

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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Concepts: VISITS, OPPOSITION PARTIES, PARTY LEADERS

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Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW

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Subject: POSSIBLE VISIT OF PANAMANIAN LIBERAL PARTY DELEGATION TO COLOMBIA

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